

# Ohio Military Kids: Supporting the Families Who Serve Our Nation

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Ohio Military Kids (OMK) is a joint effort between 4-H Youth Development of The Ohio State University and Ohio National Guard Family Readiness and Warrior Support. The mission of OMK is to empower and support the social, emotional, and academic needs of all Ohio National Guard and Reserve Component Youth.



## Goals

- Create community support networks for military youth "in our own backyard" during deployment and steady state to maintain family resilience.
- Deliver recreational, social, and educational programs for military youth living in civilian communities.
- Support military youth coping with the stress of knowing their deployed family members may be in harm's way.
- Collaborate with schools to ensure that staff are attuned to the unique needs of military students.
- Educate the public on the impact of deployment cycles on service members' families, kids, and the community.
- Become a part of the ongoing deployment support services for children and youth where there are military families.



## By The Numbers

- There are almost **two million children** in the United States who are "military-connected youth."
- In Ohio, roughly **30,000 Ohio children** have a parent or guardian serving in the United States Armed Forces.
- 2017 enrollment reports **1,891 Ohio 4-H members** have a parent or sibling serving in the military.
- From 2015-2017, Ohio Military Kids has provided services to **2,395 youth** (6-18 years of age).
- The majority of our participants come from the **Army National Guard (42%** of all participants) followed by the **Air National Guard (28%** of all participants).
- Over **150 volunteers** contribute time annually to support OMK.

## Volunteer

Individuals can volunteer at events that support Ohio Military Kids by contacting one of the program leadership team members. Volunteer roles:

- Chaperone youth
- Serve as a camp nurse
- Be a camp counselor
- Assist with program development
- Partner with OMK to host an event
- Serve as activity volunteer for events



## Events and Programs

OMK hosts events for military families and youth of all ages. A sampling of opportunities include:

- Camp Kelleys Island
- Teen Leadership Camp
- Troop and Family Camps
- HERO Camps
- Parent Workshops



## Support OMK

Funding support is welcome through donations to Ohio Military Kids. Through a fund with The Ohio State University, individual donors and organizations are able to make financial contributions to reduce the participant fees to OMK events.



Visit our website to learn more about OMK and register for events!

<https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/ohio-military-kids>